[President.]

success in this, as in everything else, depends upon the rousing of the moral indignation of the people at large and the rousing of the spirit so as to ensure that no exaction and no injustice is allowed to be perpetrated without people taking some risks to expose these facts.

One more matter and that relates specially to the Public Works Department. It has been a matter of great Disappointment to me, as some other things, have been, that there is not prevalent in the State a sufficient desire on the part of people to earn profits by legitimate means. It is possible in relation to the Department of Public Works for capitalists to engage a good and competent engineer and undertake contracts as a properly financed and properly advised syndicate. I hold the view that sooner or later—I trust that sooner rather than later—the Public Works Department would act as a kind of clearing house transacting as much work as possible through a number of local firms or syndicates in which the capitalists and qualified private engineers would co-operate for the purpose of carrying out small as well as big works. I for one would be so glad if there was a group of persons who will take up big contracts. Now isolated laymen tender for various works, either for a building like this or for a bridge, or for a dam, or for some hydro-electric scheme. They know very little about engineering. If anything goes wrong, they do not know what is wrong. They have no experience and they have no technical advice. In the result they are entirely in the hands of the department and incidentally the department is entirely in their hands. It will conduce to much greater advantage and much less corruption if Government were able in the Public Works Department to hand over as many contracts as possible on certain defined and formulated terms to syndicates, organisations and to private persons who are duly equipped with capital and who do not flinch from taking the assistance and advice of duly qualified engineers belonging to Travancore as far as possible even resorting to outside talent, if necessary. If that were done, I assure honourable members that there will be much less unsatisfactory work and much more speedy work and much less chance for corruption than there is at the present moment.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 52,52,419 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage was put and carried. The grant was made.

## DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE
## Rs. 23,22,578.

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon**: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 23,22,578 under Demand VIII—Electricity and Telephone.

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**Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** : സർ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നുവരെയുള്ള നടത്തിപ്പ് വളരെ പ്രശംസനീയമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. കൊല്ലംതോറും വലിയ സംഖ്യകൾ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു ആദായം കിട്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതും സന്തോഷാവഹമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു. ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഇതിനു എതിരായി പല പ്രചരണവേലകളും നടന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. തിവാൻജി അവർകൾ പള്ളിവാസലിൽ വന്നു പവ്വർഹൗസ് ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്തതിനുശേഷവും ചിലരുടെ എതിരായ പ്രചരണവേലകൾ ശക്തിയായവിധത്തിൽ നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിച്ച കറൻറ് താൽക്കാലിക ആവശ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു എഞ്ചിൻകൊണ്ടോ മറ്റൊ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയതാണെന്ന് ഈ ക്യട്ടർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദം മുഖാന്തിരം ഒരാൾ ഇലക്ട്രിക്കുകമ്പിയൽപിടിച്ചു മരിച്ചു പോകുന്നതിനും ഇടയായി. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉണ്ടായതിനുശേഷം ഇത്ര പ്രയാസമേറിയതും ഉപകാരപ്രദവും ആയ ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാനം ഇതുവരെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ കറൻറു വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒന്നുരണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു് ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ട രീതി സാധാരണക്കാർക്കു ഇനിയും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു. എത്രമാത്രം കറൻറു ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ എത്ര ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തെ കൃഷിക്കു വെള്ളം പമ്പുചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു ഇതുവരെ. സാധാരണക്കാർക്കു അറിവില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള റേറു് ചോദ്യംമുഖാന്തിരം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതു്. ഇതിനു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകുന്നതിനായി ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സ്റ്റാഫിനെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അപേക്ഷ. ഒരു ഉദാഹരണം പറയാം. ഒരു നൂറു ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പരീക്ഷണാർത്ഥം ഒരു ചെറിയ മോട്ടാർഇഞ്ചിൻവച്ചു് വെള്ളം പമ്പുചെയ്യുന്ന ജോലി നിർവഹിക്കുകയും ഒടുവിൽ വെള്ളം തികയാതെ വന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് കൃഷി നഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയുംചെയ്തു. വലിയ ഒരു മിഷ്യൻ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ താമസം നേരിട്ടതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇപ്രകാരം കൃഷി നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടായതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ; ഇതുമാതിരി സംഗതികൾക്കു ശരിയായ ഒരു എസ്റ്റിമേറു തയാറാക്കത്തക്ക ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. കറൻറു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതുസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള അറിവു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ലഭിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പലരും മഹ്യൻസു വാങ്ങിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തും. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഒരു വീട്ടിൽ ഒരു ടിൻ മണ്ണെണ്ണ

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[Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe.]

ചിലവാകുന്നതിനു പകരം എത്ര രൂപയുടെ കറൻറു വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നും ആളുകൾക്കു അറിയാൻ പാടില്ല. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വിശദവിവരങ്ങൾ ഗസറ്റുമുഖാന്തിരമോ മറെറാ ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇനിയും എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ടെലഫോണിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ഈ ഏർപ്പാടു നടപ്പിലാക്കിയതുകൊണ്ടു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പല കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും ഫോൺമുഖാന്തിരം കച്ചവടസംഗതികളെപ്പററി വിദേശങ്ങളുമായി സംസാരിക്കുന്നതിനു് സൗകര്യമുണ്ടു്. ഇതു നടപ്പാക്കിയതുസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സകല ജനങ്ങളും വാഴ്ത്തുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ ചോദ്യമുഖാന്തിരം ഒരു കാര്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കല്ലാറിൽ ഒരു സ്റേഷൻ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു റോഡരുകിൽ അല്ലാതു് സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിൻെറ മുകളിൽ കട്ടിംഗ്സ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നു. അതു മറിഞ്ഞുവീഴുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആളുകൾക്കു അപായം ഉണ്ടാകും. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരോടു് പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വെയിലും മഴയും കൊള്ളാത്ത സ്ഥലത്തു ഈ സ്റേഷൻ സ്ഥാപിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആളുകൾക്കു സംസാരിക്കാൻ വളരെ വിഷമമാണു്. ഒന്നുകിൽ ഈ സ്റേഷൻ നിറുത്തലാക്കണം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പബ്ളിക്കിനു സൗകര്യമായി സംസാരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണം. ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് എസ്റിമേറെറാ പ്ലാനൊ യാതൊന്നും തയാറാക്കാതെ ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് കമ്പികൾക്കുള്ള തൂണുകൾ റോഡുകളിൽ കുഴിച്ചിടുന്നതിനെപ്പററിയാണു്. കാലുകൾ കുഴിച്ചിടുന്നതുകണ്ടു് സമീപവാസികൾ പണം ചെലവാക്കി എലക്ട്രിസിററി കിട്ടുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് അവരുടെ വീടുകളിൽ എലക്ട്രിക്കുഫിററിംഗ്സ് നടത്തുന്നു. കുറെക്കഴിഞ്ഞു ഈ കുഴിച്ചിട്ട തൂണുകൾ തിരുത്തി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടു കറൻറു വേണ്ടെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടാൽ അനുവദിക്കുകയും ഇല്ല. ഇതിനു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യണം. ക്രമാതെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ലാഭമായ നിലയിൽ കറൻറു ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

**Mr. M. K. Anantasiva Aiyar:** I support the demand. My idea is to bring home to Government certain needs. Electric pumping has been found to be very successful in the Vembanad lake reclamations, though the cost of pumping has exceeded the estimated rate, not on account of any fault of the department nor even on account of any fault of the ryots. That is because the technique about the pumps that have to be used are not in the knowledge of

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either the officers of the department or of the ryots. Certain experiments are being conducted by the University and it is hoped that for the purpose of pumping in 1118 one or two pumps.....

**President**: I was given to understand that these experiments have already proved to be somewhat successful.

**Mr. M. K. Anantasiva Aiyar**: Sir, I went to the workshop the day before yesterday and found for myself what was being done in the matter. I cannot say that this work has been finished. Mr. Deshpande told me that it will take some months more to come to a final conclusion. Though it will take some time more, for his work to complete some improvement has been found to be possible now. That improvement could be effected this year.

With the sight of the electric poles in the Vembanad Reclamation area, almost all the gas engines that were being used in those places were sold away to people in places where there was no immediate chance of the electric energy being made available. Now these engines are not available in the market. It is the idea of the people and the idea of the Government also to see that in the present international situation almost all the available land is brought under cultivation. In order to do that there should be a sufficient number of engines for pumping the water. So, if as much line as is possible is extended to that area, more lands could be brought under cultivation.

Last year, in the course of the budget session I suggested that investigation be made as to whether motor cars and buses could not be run by electric power. A few days back I read an article in the Hindu that there is the possibility of having storage batteries charged with electric power for running motor cars. Now, petrol rationing is coming in. Officers may not generally go out for want of petrol and the complaint which the honourable members of this House brought forth against some departmental officers or subordinates will become true of all touring officers. So much so, it is highly necessary that an investigation should be made as to whether electric power generated from our Travancore waters could not be substituted for this very valuable petrol which we are not going to have in plenty.

With these remarks I support the demand.

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon**: Sir, with regard to the question of assessing or estimating the total number of units of energy required for lift irrigation or for other agricultural work, I may inform Mr. Kuriype that it is not possible to make a generalised statement. The amount of energy required to pump water for lift irrigation depends on two factors. One is the height to which the water should be pumped and the other is the nature of the soil. These matters are being investigated by a special committee appointed by

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[Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

Government to go into the question of expanding the scope of lift irrigation in certain taluks in North Travancore. This committee met recently and as a result of their deliberations an officer of the P. W. D. is carrying out investigations in two or three selected areas. As a result of further detailed investigations I hope that it will be possible within the course of one year to arrive at some definite conclusion regarding the cost of energy for lift irrigation in such areas.

**Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** : ഒരേക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു എത്രമാത്രം വെള്ളം വേണം, എത്രമാത്രം കറൻറു വേണം എന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** That is exactly what I am saying. It is very difficult to make a generalised statement. For each area where it is proposed to introduce lift irrigation by pumping water with electric power, the cost will be governed by the nature of the soil and also the depth of the water to be pumped against.

**Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** : എക്സ്പെരിമെൻറലായിട്ടു ഒന്നരണ്ടു സ്ഥലത്തു നടത്തിയല്ലൊ, ആ തോതനുസരിച്ചു മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ കണക്കു പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലയോ?

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon** : Sir, there again Mr. Kuriype is under a wrong impression. The amount of water pumped in the area that he refers to was found to be sufficient to irrigate more then three times the acreage of the land actually brought under irrigation. The reason for the other lands not being cultivated was not due to the cost of pumping but because the owners of those lands did not come to any agreement with the department.

**Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** : ആദ്യം ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ചെറിയ മിഷ്യൻമാററി അതിനു പകരം അവിടെ ഒരു വലിയ മിഷ്യൻകൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടിവന്നില്ലേ?

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** No, Sir. That again is incorrect. We had to supplement the quantity of water by installing another pump in accordance with the request of these agricul urists. They themselves were not experienced in the cultivation at that particular season, because normally they were having only one cultivation in the year from Edavom to Kanni. This second cultivation was carried out during Vrischigom, Dhanu and Makaram and the cultivators themselves had no previous experience of such a cultivation or of the water required. The whole scheme was of an experimental nature,

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**Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan**: ഈ പറഞ്ഞ സ്ഥല ങ്ങളല്ലാതെ മറേതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലങ്ങളും കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon**: It will be possible, Sir, but only after actual demonstration.

**President**: Order, order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 O' clock.

The House rose for lunch at 1 p. m. and re-assembled at 2 p. m.

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon**: Sir, as I was saying before the House adjourned for lunch, it is not practicable to forecast what the energy costs will be for pumping water for irrigation in any locality. There are several factors to be considered in this connection. First, we must know the depth of water; second, the nature of the soil, for the soil may absorb more water in some areas and less in others and consequently the irrigational duty may vary; third, the rainfall; fourth, the nature of the crop to be raised and the kind of seed to be utilised. A special committee has now been appointed by Government consisting of the Director of Agriculture, one of the Engineers of the P. W. D. and an officer of this department, besides some of the influential cultivators in the locality. It is hoped that as a result of their investigation the Department and the public will have at their disposal all the necessary data to deal with all problems connected with such a scheme of lift irrigation.

Before installing a pump in a particular locality for lift irrigation, investigation has shown that it will be necessary to carry out a demonstration in that area before the Department can guarantee what the maximum consumption of energy will be. The Department will always be prepared to render such assistance to the public if they desire to install electrically driven pumps. The commercial Engineer of my Department will be asked to tour round to popularise the use of such electric pumps. When any enquiries are received by him, he will get into touch with the party and render the necessary help. As a matter of fact, as a result of his activities, lift irrigation has been tried in two places this year and the result, I understand, has been very satisfactory.

With regard to the observation made by Mr. Kuriype for reduction in the charges for domestic consumption, I may inform the honourable member that the Department has not so far felt the need to do so. The department is now connecting about 80 consumers every month. The rates here compare favourably with the rates prevailing in other hydro electric supply systems elsewhere and there has so far been no indication that the existing tariff is a handicap to the progress in respect of domestic supply.

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[Mr K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

Another observation of Mr. Kuriype to which I take very strong exception is this. He said that the Department is doing work without proper estimates with the resulut that posts are planted and removed later on. It is true that there was one such solitary instance which occurred at Kothamangalam where four or five posts were planted in a particular road and removed later on. He states that the people were under the impression that electric supply was coming there and wired up their houses. My answer is that they should not have wired their houses until they got permission from the Department for house connections. The posts were planted by a maistry who was a stranger to that locality. The mistake was found out and rectified. Because these posts were planted and some people had wired up their installations, the Department cannot be expected to supply power without sanction for that estimate. When the necessity for this extension was brought to the notice of the Department an estimate was prepared and got sanctioned by Government and the work is arranged to be taken up. To conclude from this instance that the Department is proceeding without estimates is wrong.

With regard to the telephone pillar box at Kallar bridge, which is located in a cutting I may mention that I have been passing through that place for the last six years and I may tell the honourable member that I am not aware of any danger to the public or any accident there. This pillar box was fixed in the cutting to prevent damage by wild elephants. Experience had shown that wild elephants have broken up mile stones and are likely to damage pillar boxes if they are conspiciously placed.

**Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe:** അതിന്റെ അടുത്ത പല കെട്ടിടങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ? ഞാന ആ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിൽ യാതൊരുപദ്രവങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.

**Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** It is true, Sir. This is the reason why the box is put on the side of the cutting. This telephone call office has been opened as a temporary measure. The revenue derived this year is only Rs. 150 and the expenditure for maintenance is about Rs. 175. If it is found that the pillar box is very widely used then a shed will be put up for the convenience of the people. I cannot understand why it has been suggested that because there is no shed at this pillar box the people from that locality go eight or ten miles away to the nearest call office for telephone talks.

Regarding pumping charges in Kuttanad, as a result of the improvement effected in the pump by the Research Department of

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the University we are assured that there will be a substantial reduction in the pumping charge. The Professor of Mechanical Engineering, who is carrying on there investigations is however not completely satisfied with the results achieved so far, and he hopes that it is possible to achieve still higher efficiency as a result of his further experiments.

With regard to the introduction of battery vehicles in Travancore, I may mention that the matter is receiving the attention of my Department and the Director of Transport. When normal conditions are restored the Director of Transport hopes that it will be possible to utilise battery vehicles for the Town Service.

The question that a sum of Rs. 23,22,578 be granted under Demand VIII—Electricity and Telephone—was put and carried.

## DEMAND IX—COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

**Mr. E. G. Salter:** Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 17,00,242 under Demand IX—Commercial Transport.

**President:** I have received intimation that eight or nine honourable members wish to speak on this demand. I would therefore request honourable members to take not more than five minutes each.

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla:** Sir, I have to congratulate Mr. Salter for recruiting able subordinates.

**President:** The honourable member will kindly speak up.

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla:** Sir, the advantages of State Transport are set off by the bugs and the over-crowding in the buses. One seat is assigned for one man. But two people and some-times three people sit on one seat. Added to this the tops of the buses are also leaking. Though I congratulate Mr. Salter for the very gorgeous vehicles, I have to state that the necessary comforts are not available in these buses. He and I know how comfortable it is to travel in these buses in England. I am hoping that some kind of comfort will be given. I am wondering why the necessary comforts cannot be given to the passengers.

I am told that he is not only in charge of direction but he is also in charge of finance.

**Mr. M. K. Anantasiva Aiyar:** In our transport buses we find almost naked people. Does the honourable member find such men in other places?

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla:** I do not understand how that affects the comforts provided in these buses.



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